

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
TWENTY-FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

10th Legislative Day

9/10/2008

Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We ask the Members and our guests in the gallery to turn off laptop computers, cell phones, and... any other noisemaking devices. We ask the guests in the gallery to rise and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Pat McManus. Rev... Reverend McManus is with the House of Praise in Aurora, Illinois, and he is the guest of Representative Chapa LaVia."

Reverend McManus: "Father, we come before You today to give thanks for what You're doing in our lives. We thank You for the safe return of our colleague here from Iraq. Lord, we thank You for the safety that You brought him home. We thank You for each one here that is represent they where once children, sons and daughters, they are... some are brothers and sisters, some are aunts and uncles, and some are fathers and mothers. Father, we ask that You would just bless each one. We ask Father, for wisdom for each one that's here this day, that You give 'em clarity to make wise and effective decisions. Lord that they would make decisions that would be helpful and beneficial to the people they serve. Father, that they would know and understand an... and operate in the knowledge and understanding of how to effectively touch and impact to bring change. And Lord we thank You for the Leadership here that truly tries to lead and guide to bring effective... effective things in this state. Lord, we serve a great city; we serve a great state that is second to none. And,

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Father, we ask that You bless each one of these families that are represented here. We ask that You'd watch over them, protect them, watch over their families, watch over their constituents. Father, watch over every area of their life. Lord help them to be effective in the things of their hand. Lord, we thank You and we give you praise, in Jesus name, Amen."

Speaker Madigan: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Chapa LaVia."

Chapa LaVia et - al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representative Hernandez is excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that Representative: Bassi, Fortner, Pihos, Schock are excused and that we're happy to report that Watson is not excused today and that the yellow ribbon has been removed. Welcome back, Marine."

Speaker Madigan: "Let the record show that the House has come to order in the Twenty-fourth Special Session. The Clerk, shall take the record. There being 113 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Mr. Cross."

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Cross: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Bost, acknowledged the presence of our good friend Jim Watson. I... I want to say just a couple things, before I even acknowledge Jim's work and what he did, I want to say thanks to the Members of this Body on both sides of the aisle, because while Representative Watson was gone, doing incredible things on behalf of this state and this country, people in this chamber on both sides, Republicans and Democrats, took the time to go to his district office and provide help and constituent services and whatever else was needed while he was... while he was gone. And I think that speaks volumes about the type of people in this... in this chamber and whatever differences we have and Lord knows we have a lot of them in this day and age right now, that didn't prevent people from saying I'm going to Jacksonville to help out my friend and my colleague and my... the great American that he is, Jim Watson. So, on behalf of those on our side of the aisle, Thank you, not just to the Republicans but to those of you as Democrats that helped out at a time when it was needed, and we are all very appreciative of it. And Jim, we all missed you on the Republican side. We are in awe of what you did, and... and the commitment you made and the time and energy and commitment you gave to this country. So, it's great to have you back and, you know, when you left I think a lot of people were concerned about making sure you came back. So, we're glad you're back and... we love what you did for this

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state and for this country. And it's just good to see you back on the House Floor. Thank you, to Jim Watson."

Speaker Madigan: "There being no further business to come before the Twenty-fourth Special Session, Representative Currie moves that the Twenty-fourth Special Session stand adjourned until 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 11. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it."